

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

S E C R E T STATE 139441

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINT, PGOV, MILI, TW

SUBJECT:EA/ROC WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. NEW ROC CABINET INSTALLED (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE "NEW" ROC CABINET WHICH TOOK OFFICE JUNE 1 IS VERY MUCH THE CREATION OF PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO AND NOT THE NEW PERMIER, Y.S. SUN. THERE ARE REALLY NO NEW FACES SINCE ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD EITHER MINISTERIAL OR VICE MINISTERIAL RANK. THE KEY POSITIONS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, REMAIN WITH INCUMBENT MINISTERS.

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CCK PROBABLY INTENDS THE CABINET TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF CONTINUITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY, AND THIS DOUBTLESS WILL BE VERY WELCOME TO THE MAINLANDER POWER STRUCTURE. BUT CCK HAS MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW HIMSELF AS AN ENERGETIC, PROGRESSIVE LEADER JUST AT THE VERY TIME WHEN THE TAIWANESE MAJORITY ARE TAKING A HEIGHTENED IN-

TEREST IN POLITICS AND HOPING FOR A NEW POLITICAL DISPENSATION. CCK'S "MORE OF THE SAME" CHOICES ARE LIKELY TO DISAPPOINT THIS GROUP.

IN CONTRAST TO HIS UNIMAGINATIVE CABINET CHOICES, CCK'S NOMINEE FOR GOVERNOR OF TAIWAN, LIN YANG-KANG, PROBABLY WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE YOUNG AND THE TAIWANESE. LIN IS A TAIWANESE NOW ABOUT 50 (MAKING HIM 13 YEARS YOUNGER THAN THE AVERAGE AGE OF CCK'S CABINET), WITH A REPUTATION AS A FORTHRIGHT, HARD-WORKING ADMINISTRATOR.

2. MILITARY MATTERS (SECRET/EXDIS)

JUST PRIOR TO THE PEKING VISIT, THE NSC ISSUED THE DIRECTIVE CALLING FOR A REDUCTION IN DOD PERSONNEL TO 660 BY OCTOBER 1. DOD HAS NOT RECLAMAED ON THE OCTOBER DEADLINE. OKSENBERG HAS TOLD US HE WILL REVIEW OUR COMMENTS ON DOD'S PAPER CONCERNING DEPOT MAINTENANCE AND WAR RESERVE MATERIAL SHORTLY; HE APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING QUICKLY ON THIS. OKSENBERG HAS ALSO AGREED TO ASK DOD TO BRIEF HIM AND US ON ITS CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR TAIWAN'S DEFENSE.

3. HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE (UNCLASSIFIED)

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THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE HAS INFORMED US THAT IT PLANS TO ASK THE ROC EMBASSY FOR INTERVIEWS WITH AMBASSADOR SHEN AND MINISTER HU (CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS) ON CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL TO THE ROC. WE HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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